

The slide features a solid blue background. On the left and right edges, there are decorative patterns of overlapping chevron shapes in yellow, magenta, cyan, and grey. The main text is centered in the upper half of the slide.

# VEF interview round

experience sharing

# Contents

1. Preparation before interview
2. Before and during the interview
3. Specific cases + tips

# 1. Before interview: YOUR PREPARATION



# *Think about your research*

## 1. Study goal:

- Simple and concise explanation of your study aim

## 2. Methods and Result:

- Techniques applied → what did you get?
- Result is expected or not → what did you learn from?

## 3. Published paper:

- International publishing is the best.

## ***Build your confidence***

- Nervous: accept it, don't ignore it → normal reaction of your mind
- Look inside yourself to know clearly the reasons that cause your nervousness and answer them



# ***Build your confidence***

- Why are you nervous?
  - Professors will ask you questions that you cannot answer.
  - You could not understand what they talk.
- SOLVE your questions by yourself, you will gradually find your confidence or your *inner strength*.

# ***Build your confidence***

## *Entertainment?*

- Movies? Music?: you could entertain but should not too much, especially when the interview day is approaching.

## *Do exercise?*

- It will help you much.

# *Build your confidence*

1. What movie do you like most?

2. WHY?





# *Look back on your VEF profile*

- You should know clearly:
  - Why you chose these recommended schools
  - Other points on your VEF profile that professors will be curious about.
- You should find other strong points that you did not mention in your profile.

# The day before the interview



Take a rest



Prepare documents



Go to bed early



# The interview day



Wake up early



Take a bath



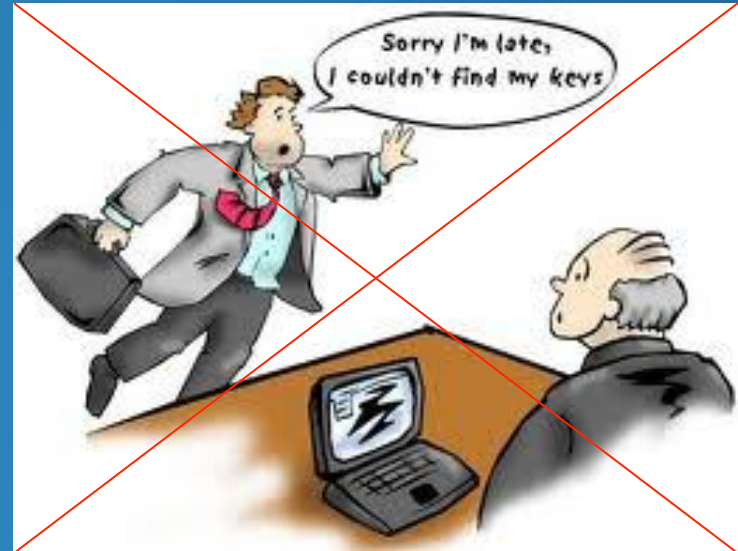
Have healthy  
breakfast

# The interview day



Dress proper attire

Do not be late



# The interview day

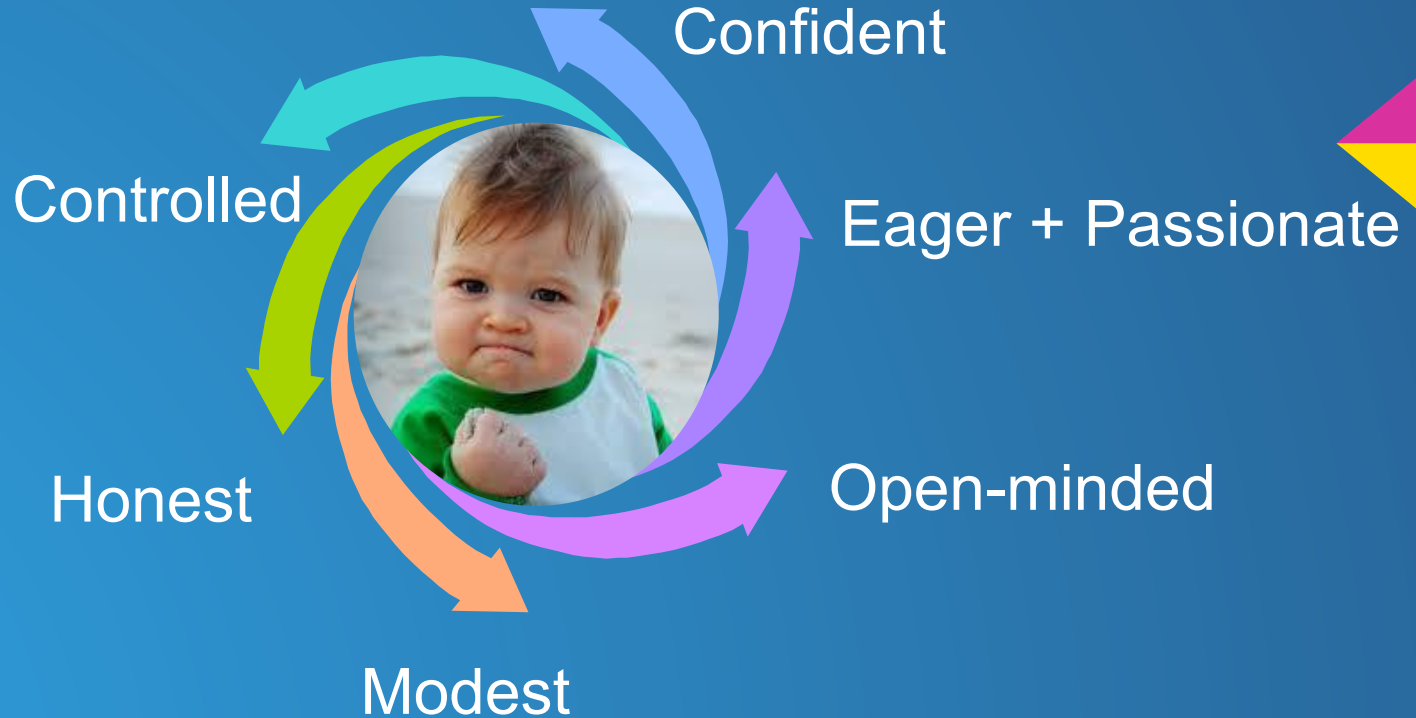
In the waiting room:

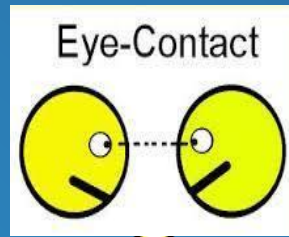


Reduce nervousness

Do not ask about the interview just finished

# The interview day







## Some embarrassing situations:

Situations	Your reactions
You do not understand the question.	Politely ask the professor to restate the question: “Could you please restate the question?”
You do not know the answer.	“Sorry, I do not know about this, but I know that...” (related problems)
You give a wrong answer.	Say “Sorry” and then ask them to let you answer again.
Professor do not understand you.	Give slow and condensed answer, use white board...



# Some actual interviews:

1/ Major of candidate: Civil engineering

<i>Initial part: Greeting and Introduction (just name)</i>	
<i>Part 1: Research experience</i>  <i>Note: Professors asked some advanced questions related to the project + argued.</i>	<i>1/ Can you tell me about “project 1” listed in your research experience?</i> <i>2/ What is the concept A, B, C...?</i> <i>3/ Why did you do in this project?</i>  <i>“This project is my summer research and I just spent around 3 months on doing research. My main research is another project, my master dissertation, in which I spent nearly a year to complete. Could I present it to you?”</i>

<p><b>Part 2: Master dissertation</b></p> <p><b>Note: “What is the result of your problem in another situation, for example, situation B rather than A? Can you guess?”</b></p>	<p>1/ What is the dissertation about?</p> <p>2/ Your research method?</p> <p>3/ Your result + experiment used to verify the result?</p> <p><b>Note: May be a question to test the problem solving ability of candidate, or to test the skill to find out research problems of candidate.</b></p>
<p><b>Part 3: The future research area</b></p>	<p>Some questions related to the proposed research area of candidate.</p> <p><b>Note: check the preparation of candidate for future research.</b></p>
<p><b>Part 4: The proposed professors</b></p>	<p>1/ Have you ever contacted with any professors in the 5 universities?</p> <p>2/ What does s/he research?</p> <p>3/ Why do you want to do your research under his/her supervision?</p> <p><b>Note: the reasons should not be the fame of the professors or high ranking of the university.</b></p>

## 2/ Major of candidate: Pharmacology

<i>Initial part: Greeting and Introduction (just name)</i>	
<i>Part 1: Proposed field of study</i>	<i>1/ Why are you interested in this field? 2/ Which area would you want to focus on? 3/ What is your future plan? (your contribution to Vietnam)</i>
<i>Part 2: Research experience</i>	<i>1/ Tell us about your previous research <b>Note: you should be proactive to ask for using the board.</b> 2/ Some questions about core concepts of the research. <b>Note: Since their specialties are quite not directly relevant to the candidate's, the questions were focusing mostly on basic concepts which sometimes might be underestimated and not well prepared by the candidates.</b></i>

<b>Part 3: The proposed universities</b>	<p><i>1/ Why and how did you choose those universities? What is your main target?</i></p> <p><i>1/ Have you ever contacted with any Professors in 5 universities? What do they say?</i></p> <p><b>Note: They might suggest other schools for you besides the list or even change most of them. In either case, you could ask for their explanation because they have a point in doing that.</b></p>
<b>Part 4: Miscellaneous</b>	<p><i>1/ What did you gain and lost when being a leader in that activity? How do those experiences help you in the grad school?</i></p> <p><i>2/ What concern you the most when studying at the graduate school?</i></p> <p><i>3/ How did you become interested in studying in the US?</i></p> <p><b>Note: they may ask some whimsical questions like “What is your most favorite English word?” “Your favorite American TV show?”</b></p> <p><i>4/ Do you have any questions for us?</i></p>

# Useful reference:

- ❑ Vietnam Education Foundation Fellows & Scholars Association (VEFFA)
- ❑ Fanpage: VEFFA Mentoring Program ([www.facebook.com/veffa.mentoring](http://www.facebook.com/veffa.mentoring))
- ❑ Facebook group: Graduate study – USA
- ❑ Email: [mentoring@veffa.org](mailto:mentoring@veffa.org)
- ❑ [www.vietphd.org](http://www.vietphd.org) (VEF interview)
- ❑ [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

**Thank You & Good luck !**